The School of Community and Public Affairs (SCPA) Undergraduate and Graduate Programs

Major in Community, Public Affairs and Policy Studies Graduate Diploma in Community Economic Development

The Major in Community, Public Affairs and Policy Studies

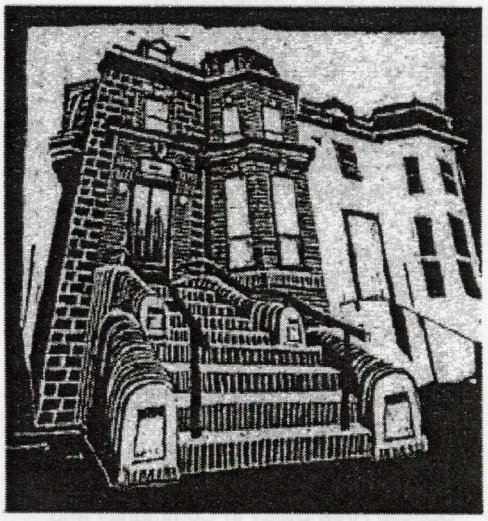
The School of Community and Public Affairs (SCPA) is one of six colleges at Concordia University. It combines a variety of disciplines such as political science, public administration, economics, history, sociology, journalism and communication studies. Since its inception in 1979, the School has consistently worked to develop as broad an understanding as possible of the complex and multifaceted range of policy issues that confront our society.

The fundamental objective of the SCPA's major in Community, Public Affairs and Policy Studies is to provide an interdisciplinary approach to public policy analysis and policy advocacy by offering students a unique, bilingual educational experience in a small, personalized learning environment. Students who graduate with a major in Community, Public Affairs and Policy Studies are sensitive to the broad social, economic and political factors, which are part of the public policy process.

The policy process cannot be conveyed successfully without access to a "real world" laboratory. Hence, we emphasize practical experience to help develop the judgment necessary to complement traditional academic training. Drawing on an innovative combination of theoretical and practical training, the SCPA provides its students with the fundamental intellectual tools that enable them to not only formulate their own educated critique of their socio-political environment, but also to participate actively and knowledgeably in the improvement of that environment.

In addition, the School regularly fulfils an outreach mission, which has significantly contributed to Concordia's visibility outside the university. It is central to the role of SCPA faculty, fellows and staff to extend the educational mission of the School beyond the immediate needs of its students to include the community at large.

Through numerous, free-access public lectures, symposia, and public debates organized by its members, the School brings in scholars, activists, and policy makers of national and international reputation.



As such, the SCPA acts as an important forum in the Montreal area for the discussion and understanding of the key policy, public affairs and community issues of our times.

The School's faculty and fellows are actively engaged in new areas of research, which are integrated regularly into the material and knowledge imparted to students. Over the years, the School has become one of the city's major centres of scholarly and intellectual exchange on social, political and economic issues.

Located at 2149 Mackay Street, in a charming Victorian building, the School occupies an ideal site for formal classes, public lectures, social events and meetings. School facilities include a common room, a computer, reading and documentation centre, a seminar room, a computer room, and faculty offices.

Entrance Requirements and Admission Procedures

Enrolment in the School is limited. In general, students admitted to the University who wish to enter the School of Community and Public Affairs must have achieved a "B" average at their previous educational level. In exceptional circumstances, a candidate who fails to meet this requirement may be admitted on the basis of personal evaluation.

All applicants are asked to complete a one-page written assignment and meet with members of the School for an interview. The discussion touches upon a number of areas ranging from the candidate's interests and experience through his/her ideas about community and public affairs. The interview is conducted in both English and French.

Student Body

The student body is drawn primarily from the Faculty of Arts and Science, although students from other Faculties can be admitted. Students are therefore exposed to various disciplines through interaction with their peers. Students who have chosen the School usually cite the following as important factors:

- The unique curriculum
- The bilingual environment
- The small classes
- The sense of community and involvement
- The internship

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Student Life

The SCPA is a very student centred unit. Interaction between students, faculty and staff is frequent and open.

"Chit Chat" is a weekly opportunity for students, staff and faculty to gather informally.

The student association (SCPASA) is very active. It publishes a regular newsletter and organizes a wide variety of social and academic activities, including fund-raisers for local charities, weekend trips and great parties. Many of the students are involved in extra curricular activities outside the School, contributing to its community outreach.

The environment at the School is lively and congenial. This is a strong feature of the programme, which students value highly. Many of the course assignments are carried out in teams, which contributes to the development of academic collaboration and friendship among students. A recent survey noted a very encouraging level of satisfaction with the School on the part of the student body. In particular, students value the low student/faculty ratio and the availability of faculty and staff.

Alumni regularly attend activities and partake in its academic life as guest speakers, consultants or as members of the Advisory Board. Students' identification with the SCPA remains strong long after graduation.

Program and Curriculum

The major in Community, Public Affairs and Policy Studies consists of the following 42 credits. **In addition to completing the SCPA curriculum, students are strongly encouraged to pursue a departmental major.**

Year I (18 credits)

SCPA 201 (3 credits)
Introduction to Public Policy Interest & the Public Interest

SCPA 203 (3 credits)
Community and Public Affairs in Quebec and Canada

SCPA 215 (3 credits)
Economics for Public Policy and Community Development

INTE 296 (3 credits)
Discover Statistics

One of the following:

SCPA 204/POLI 204 (3 credits)
Introduction to Canadian Politics
Or
SCPA 211/POLI 211 (3 credits)
Quebec Politics and Society

One of the following:

SCPA 205 /HIST 205 (3 credits)
History of Canada – Post Confederation
Or
SCPA 210/HIST 210 (3 credits)
Quebec Since Confederation

Year II (12 credits)

SCPA 301 (6 credits)
Social Debates and Issues in Public Policy Analysis

SCPA 321(3 Credits)
Public Affairs Strategies

One of the following:

SCPA 353/SOCI 353 (3 credits)
Community Studies
Or
SCPA 398 (3 credits)
Special Area Study in Community and Public Affairs
Or
SCPA 333/SOCI 333 (3 credits)
Political Sociology
Or
SCPA 355/SOCI 355 (3 credits)
Urban Regions

Year III (12 credits)

SCPA 411 (3 credits)
Internship

SCPA 412 (3 credits)
Senior Research Seminar

SCPA 498 (3 credits)
Special Topics in Community Studies, Public Affairs and Policy Analysis

One of the following:

SCPA 460/COMS 460 (3 credits)
Political Communication
Or
SCPA 461/COMS 361 (3 credits)
Seminar in Propaganda
Or
SCPA 465/COMS 465
Rhetoric and Communications

What Do Our Graduates Do?

While some students will enter the work force upon completion of their undergraduate program, we strongly urge members of our School to consider pursuing post-graduate work. The combination of a disciplinary B.A. with the SCPA program provides our graduates with a variety of possibilities in this area. Programs in the humanities and social sciences are possible alternatives, as are professionally-oriented courses of study, including Public or Business Administration and Law.

Job opportunities for SCPA graduates are good. Public agencies and leaders in government and business have expressed the need for generalists trained in public affairs. The demands for individuals with such a background is strong.

Projections of future demands appear equally promising, particularly for those who are able to express themselves in both French and English.

Depending upon the choice of disciplinary specialization, our graduates may expect to pursue such diverse occupations as:

- Public affairs specialists in corporations
- Civil servants at local, provincial, national or international levels
- Public policy analysts and advisors to community and other organizations

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- Community group leaders and political organizations
- Journalists, broadcasters, editors, TV and radio producers
- Urban planners, educators

SCPA Scholarship and Awards

The SCPA/Vince Sirois Memorial Entrance Scholarship

Established in 1995 by Imperial Oil Ltd. to honour their former Senior Vice President and Director, Vince Sirois. Mr. Sirois was instrumental in the development of the School through his involvement as a member of the Board of Advisors. This award is offered to bilingual students entering the School of Community and Public Affairs and who, in addition to academic achievement, have demonstrated a commitment to public life.

The School of Community and Public Affairs Prize

This award is given to a student upon completion of the School of Community and Public Affairs membership requirements of forty-two (42) credits and the completion of the student degree requirements. The award recipient will be selected on the basis of the student's contribution to the intellectual and social life of the School.

Board of Advisors

The School benefits from the input of an external Board of Advisors. Members of the Board are active in a variety of public, private and community organizations. They often act as resource persons for the many activities of the School. They constitute an invaluable source of hands-on expertise and competence that complement the academic component of the School. Board members are the School's life-line to the world. The Advisory Board meets three time a year.

The Graduate Diploma in Community Economic Development (CED) Program

This graduate program strives to further equip practitioners to take on the challenge of strengthening local communities in an era of globalization.

The program understands community economic development (CED) in its widest sense, and views CED as an emerging, diverse field of practices and analyses embodying both social and economic dimensions. These include CED's holistic approach to practice issues, to assessments, and to the complex, long-term nature of individual and community empowerment processes.

The program tries to respond to the realities of community-based practitioners. It is designed to enable participants to continue working while taking the program. As well, it is structured to encourage Canada-wide participation while participants continue to be based in their communities.

Structure

The Graduate Diploma in Community Economic Development (CED) program:

- takes one year to complete over three consecutive semesters: Fall, Winter and Summer
- leads to a 30-credit graduate diploma, with all courses at the graduate level
- offers its courses in Montreal during an extended weekend once a month (all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday once a month, and also Thursday afternoon once every two months)
- integrates site visits, as well as internet-based communication and learning components
- includes a 6-credit practical project directly related to a participant's work or volunteer activity
- is geared to people working within marginalized and capital-poor communities, or people wanting to work with such communities
- alternates annually between English (years of Fall 2002, 2004, ...) and French (years of Fall 2003, 2005, ...)
- requires applications by March 31 for the Fall term (applications may be considered after that date if places still remain after the selection process).

Content and Teaching/ Learning Approach

The program:

- values the contribution of knowledge and experiences brought by participants to learning within the program
- seeks knowledge and skill development in a context of critical questioning and ethical considerations
- takes into account the 'bigger picture' of economic policies and relations when analyzing and strategizing local economic intervention
- includes two to three Areas of Concentration per year, based on the group of participants' priorities: International Development and CED; Financing CED Initiatives; Aboriginal CED; Housing and Land Use from a CED Perspective; and Communications, Technology and CED.
- offers a series of 1-credit courses, including on Feminist Approaches to CED
- favours methods and materials that encourage participants to bring learnings to their communities
- encourages sustainable networking among participants to support ongoing learning and an expansion of each person's resources.

The program offers a structured opportunity for participants to step back and critically explore their practice or community experience with others. Such exploration engages with the complexity of practice and nourishes a disposition of hope and action within social justice efforts. Through participating in the program, critically reflective practitioners push themselves further, challenging the limits of their analyses and practices.

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Course requirements and course content reflect program priorities:

- strategic questions and considerations over the purely technical,
- community organizing processes within community economic development, and
- the relation between wider policy issues and political/economic processes, such as globalization, and local realities and initiatives.

Instructors within the program are significantly involved in both community and university settings. They bring practical experience, theory and research to classes. Course instructors have included, for example: **Margie Mendell** (SCPA, Concordia University); **Bill Ninacs** (Cooperative La Clé); **Josée Belleau** (Independent researcher within women's movements); **Wanda Wuttunee** (Dep't. of Native Studies, University of Manitoba); **Eric Shragge** (SCPA, Concordia University); **Jean Panet-Raymond** (École de service social, Université de Montréal); **Jean-François Aubin** (Économie communautaire de Francheville); **Sylvie Tardif** (Centre d'organisation mauricien de services et d'éducation populaire); **Lance Evoy** (Institute in Management and Community Development, Concordia University); **Moustafa Magar** (Corporation de développement économique communautaire Rosemont/La Petite Patrie); **David Newhouse** (Dep't. of Native Studies, Trent University); **François Lamontagne** (Canadian Labour and Business Centre), and **Anne Latendresse** (Dep't. de géographie, Université du Québec à Montréal).

Courses are taken in the following progression:

- **Fall semester**: three core courses (9 credits total) and one open session course (1 credit);
- **Winter semester**: two core courses (6 credits total), the first four months of the practical project course (3 credits), and one open session course (1 credit);
- **Summer semester**: two courses within an elective Area of Concentration (6 credits total), the last four months of the practical project course (3 credits), and one open session course (1 credit).

Required courses (3 credits each, unless otherwise noted):

SCPA 501
Introduction to Community Economic Development

SCPA 502
Comparative Approaches and Models in CED: Organizational Development

SCPA 503
Fundamental Skills for CED Practice

SCPA 504
Community Organizing and CED

SCPA 505
Social Enterprise Development and Social Entrepreneurship

SCPA 506
CED Project or Internship (6 credits: Winter and Summer)

SCPA 543A-Z
Open Sessions (1 credit each, one per term), including on Feminist Approaches to CED (1st part: Fall; 2nd part: Winter; 3rd part; Summer)

Elective Area of Concentration courses (3 credits each). Two courses are chosen from the range of Area of Concentration courses offered in a given year. Each of the following Areas of Concentration includes two courses (Part I and Part II):

SCPA 529 & SCPA 530
International Development and CED

SCPA 508 & SCPA 509
Financing CED Initiatives

SCPA 536 & SCPA 537
Aboriginal CED

SCPA 515 & SCPA 516
Housing and Land Use from a CED Perspective

SCPA 522 & SCPA 523
Communications, Technology and CED

The Graduate Diploma in CED was founded in collaboration with Concordia's Institute in Management and Community Development.

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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http://scpa-eapc.concordia.ca

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